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PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#3/A

Patent Application

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Examiner		Group Art Unit	
Title	Communications System and Method with Call Expenditure Control		

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231  
SIR:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please Add the following claims:

21. A method for interacting with a communication device having an assigned telephone number, comprising the steps of:

deriving said telephone number from a signal received from said communication device when said communication device initiates a call to a destination instrument,

accessing a database which stores information that associates telephone numbers with pre-paid telephone service and retrieving therefrom an amount of said pre-paid telephone service that is associated with said telephone number of said communication device,

establishing a connection between said communication device and said destination instrument when said amount is greater than a first predetermined threshold value, where a cost attributed to said connection increases with time during which said connection is maintained,

repeatedly determining when said cost of said connection comes within a second predetermined threshold of said amount, and

Balance is  
sufficient

3 minutes before  
the balance is  
depleted.